



The Truth of the One to One Laptop Program

Is One to One Laptop Program better than the old school system?

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Preface

The key research question was “**Is One to One Laptop Program better than the old school system?**” The One to One Laptop Program provides an opportunity for students to learn about technology that they otherwise might not have. The main purpose of this program is to get the students interested in learning the technology. This opportunity to learn the technology will greatly help the students’ future career. This paper will basically explain the pros, and cons of the One to One Laptop program.

Genre 1

The first Genre is about the One to One Laptop Program. How is this program useful? How is this program a defect to the school system? Writing an essay basically organized my thoughts and it was helpful in organizing other Genres as well.

Is One to One laptop program better than the old school system?

The One to One Laptop Initiative (OOLI) is an educational program designed to improve the technological skills of students by ensuring a school has a ratio of one laptop to one student. This program was first started in Maine in the summer of 2001. (Lessons Learned from 1 to 1 Laptop Initiatives: Reflections and Critical Components) The former Governor Angus King encouraged every seventh and eighth grade student and teacher in the state of Maine to adopt this program: 241 schools, 33,000 students, and 3000 teachers. (Lessons Learned from 1 to 1 Laptop Initiatives: Reflections and Critical Components) The first computer used in this system was the standard 12 inch Macintosh iBook. (Lessons Learned from 1 to 1 Laptop Initiatives: Reflections and Critical Components) The iBook included some useful applications such as iMovie, iPhoto, Apple Works, Safari (a web browser), and an email client. (Lessons Learned from 1 to 1 Laptop Initiatives: Reflections and Critical Components) The OOLI is still in its early stages and therefore it is difficult to judge whether the program is a success. This paper will present the pros and cons of the OOLI.

The OOLI provides an opportunity for students to learn about technology that they otherwise might not have. (One Laptop per Child (OLPC), a low-cost, connected laptop for the world's children's education) Currently, learning how to use the computer is not mandatory in most high schools, therefore these schools are failing to prepare students to survive in today's technology driven world. However, the OOLI is designed to help students familiarize themselves with computer technology so that they can use computers for something more than just games, social networking, or communication. (Lessons Learned from 1 to 1 Laptop Initiatives: Reflections and Critical Components) For instance, students can learn how to do research on the Internet for school projects, thus teaching them how to access information. Doing research on the Internet also increases efficiency. For example, using a search engine is more efficient than having to search through piles and piles of books in the school library. When using a search engine such as Google, students are able to obtain the latest news and information instantly. However, books and other materials from traditional research methods may

not reflect the latest information. Students also have access to a larger variety of sources that range from official databases to student and expert blogs. Having access variety of sources on the Internet allows the student to from learn both the primary and the secondary sources easily.

One significant drawback of this program is the fact that computers often distract students from concentrating and learning. It is very easy for a student to get off track during class using a computer. Students are able to play games, watch videos, and chat with friends. The fact that students are easily disturbed by other activities sometimes encourages teachers to limit the use the computer. However limiting the use of computer defeats the purpose of the OOLI. In addition to limiting the use, monitoring the whole class is also an arduous job. Having access to computers can also foster academic fraud. Because of the plentitude of academic information available on the Internet such as reports or project done by other students, students may be tempted to plagiarize that information instead of doing their own work. How about the cost to implement this program? You could mention the 100-dollar laptop. But even this is still pretty expensive.

Using the one to one laptop system definitely had some cons, but mostly it was helpful in education. This system brought more convenience and efficiency, and was able to give lessons on not only regular school works, but also in technology.

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Genre 2

The second Genre is a IT magazine article. This Genre was helpful in answering the KEY question because the magazine article could have some opinionated answers by some interviewers. With this Genre, I interviewed few IT officers in order to have some idea of how the Remote Desktop Works.

TIME

One to One Laptop

DIFFERENT METHODS OF MONITORING THE STUDENTS

The One to One Laptop Initiative
The Different Methods to Monitor Student
Activity How effective is Apple Remote
Desktop?



What are some ways teachers can ensure students stay on task?

One of the drawback of the One to One Laptop initiative is that it is difficult to keep students from doing non-academic related activities on their computers. (1 Laptop : 1 Student) There are a variety of illicit activities that can tempt students such as social networking, blogging, playing games, etc. Teachers, administrators, and software engineers have tried a variety of measures to ensure students will use their computers for educational purposes. This article will evaluate some of these measures.

One of the easiest methods to monitor student activity is to have the instructor walk around the classroom. Students are deterred from going off task if a teacher is aware of their illicit activity. However, this method does have its drawbacks. For example, it is actually physically impossible for teachers to monitor every student's screen in the class. Many students are agile enough to change or minimize their screens in order to give the appearance that they are on task. Walking around the class to monitor the students is not only impossible, but also a waste of time. (1 Laptop : 1 Student) If the teachers are busy walking around and using their energy to monitor students, then they won't be able to lecture, especially up at the board. Using the white board is a traditional method of teaching, and still many teachers prefer to teach using the white board. By walking around the class, teachers will not be devoting what they should be doing - teaching. (Lessons Learned from 1 to 1 Laptop Initiatives: Reflections and Critical Components.")

Another method teachers use to prevent students from going off task is limiting the actual use of computers during class hours. By restricting the times when students can have their computers turned on, teachers can at the very least minimize the time when



"Are you a student? Use a Mac! : Shufflegazine - Apple Lifestyle Magazine." Shufflegazine - Apple Lifestyle Magazine. 25 Oct. 2009 <<http://www.shufflegazine.com/2009/05/27/are-you-a-student-use-a-mac/>>.

students are doing off-task activities. This method, however, defeats the purpose of the one to one laptop program itself. If the goal of the program is for students to adapt to the world of technology through the use of computers, then how can limiting their usage to very specific tasks accomplish this goal?

Apple Remote Desktop is a Macintosh application that allows the teacher to monitor and control student computer activity through the teacher's computer. (Apple-Remote Desktop 3) Until now this has been the most effective method to keep students from getting off task, but even this application has its weaknesses. (Apple- Remote

Desktop 3) For example, if the students change the administrator's password, it is impossible for the teachers to have access to the student's computer. Fortunately, most students are not aware of this secret. This secret would further bring chaos to the One to One Laptop program. Because it is very hard for teachers to memorize different passwords for different computers, schools use one password for all computers. This creates the possibility of a dangerous scenario of the students finding out the password thus giving them access to school computers as well. "But, why should the teachers use The Apple Remote Desktop?" The Apple Remote Desktop facilitates the monitoring process by providing features such as instant shut off, and send announcement, control, send files, and open the student's applications as well. (Apple-Remote Desktop 3)

It is probably unrealistic to expect that any single method will be able to completely stop students from going off task. Perhaps, that is the wrong question. Perhaps we should be asking,

"What is the most effective way to keep students on task?"

What activities that involve integrating the laptop can be thought of to make more rewarding

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Citations

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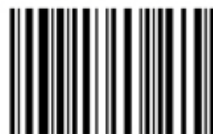
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Apple mac One to One Laptop initiative



\$15.99



RSBN 1841-0102-1341

Genre 3

Please CHECK the Wiki

The last Genre, the video will basically conclude the project by answering the KEY question of this Multi Genre Project. Making a movie enabled me to express my ideas by speaking.

Epilogue

From this project I learned that the One to One Laptop Program is not as bad as what people think. I was able to learn this newly introduced program was first started by Maine, and now it is known worldwide. However, there is a defect to this program. I've learned that the One to One Laptop Program is quite useful in education, and this could further improve the students' skill on using different mac applications. By reading this project, I hope people learned the importance of the One-to-One Laptop program, the importance of learning the technology for our future career and life.